

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1870.

## What We Expected.

Some weeks ago or more, the telegraph announced that John G. Whittier, the "Quaker Poet," had been nominated for Congress in the Fifth district of Massachusetts by a proslavery convention. We knew that he would not accept this nomination. He has borne himself too long, and too nobly in the great cause of humanity to forsake now that cause, and the Republican party, for any side issue. In his letter he says:

"I had flattered myself that my Republicanism was above suspicion; but if there is anybody in the Commonwealth who entertains a doubt of it in consequence of the preceding referred to, it is sufficient to say that the use of my name was wholly unauthorised, and that the nomination has been promptly declined."

## British Naturalization and Neutrality.

Two circumstances have recently transpired in England which, on account of their importance and effect, deserve at least the notice of the people of the United States. One is the passage of the "Naturalization Act, 1870," 33 Vict., chap. 14, sec. 6, which substantially repeals the old English doctrine of perpetual allegiance, and thereby finally determines a question which, in its application to this country, has for many years been a source of discussion among writers upon international law. The other is the publication of a book, by Mr. Montague Bernard, a gentleman of extensive learning, and a Prof. of International Law and Diplomacy in the University of Oxford, entitled "A Historical Account of the Neutrality of Great Britain during the Civil War in America," which work, considering the present state of popular opinion, growing out of the Alabama claims, and the effect produced thereon by Mr. Sumner's speech, deserves the careful perusal of those who are anxious to understand our relations with England, and who desire to see a complete and friendly settlement of whatever differences may exist between the two great countries.

Section 6 of the naturalization act above referred to empowers a British subject who has become naturalized in a foreign State to become an allegiance to her Majesty; but, if desirous of remaining a British subject, he is to make a declaration of British nationality, and take the oath of allegiance, and is to be deemed a British subject, except within the limits of the foreign State where he is naturalized.

It may not perhaps be generally known that it has always been, until the passage of 33 Vict., chap. 14, sec. 6, a positive rule of the English Common Law, that natural-born subjects owe an allegiance which is intrinsic and perpetual; and that no subject can, either by any act of his own or by the naturalization of a foreign prince, divest himself of such allegiance. Entering into foreign service without the consent of the sovereign, or refusing to leave such service when required, was held to be a misdemeanor at common law. (Kent's Com.) Yet, in the face of this law, for these many years, we have been naturalizing her natural-born subjects, and compelling them to alter their allegiance. A very large portion of our population has been British and American at the same time.

As to what extent the English rule applied in this country has been a subject of frequent and grave argument, both by theoretical writers and in forensic discussions. While some writers upon public law speak in favor of the right of emigration, and regard the law of allegiance as being derived from the feudal system, by which men were chained to the soil on which they were born, and converted from free citizens to the vassals of lords and superiors, others are unwilling to admit that the rights of a subject are paramount to the safety of the State. Every man is entitled to claim rights and protection in society, and he is, says Judge Fredell, in his turn, under a solemn obligation to discharge his duty; and no man ought to be permitted to abandon society, and leave his social and political obligations unperformed. Though a person may become naturalized abroad, yet, if he has not been legally discharged of his allegiance at home, it will remain notwithstanding.

Consequently our naturalization laws have borne the *prima facie* inconsistency of admitting to citizenship in our country persons who were still citizens of another; of compelling aliens to abjure an allegiance which they could not throw off. But the sixth section of this recent statute cures the defect in our naturalization law and removes that duplicity of status under which many of our citizens have been existing.

The misfeasance and nonfeasance of Great Britain, while endeavoring to sustain a neutral capacity, during our civil war, have often been questioned, and our indignation seldom failed to be aroused at any act which appeared favorable to the Confederacy; but it will be found upon investigation, that many of the acts complained of were in perfect consonance with the condition of neutral, and according to the established rules and principles of international law.

Mr. Bernard, belonging to a nation which has suffered no great injury, with an apparent upright intention, a prevailing spirit of candor and impartiality, points out, in his work, the various instances in which we were wrong in our condemnations; shows how international law, like civil, is often compelled to allow much evil to go on for the sake of greater good; and causes us to recollect "that our principles and examples, when we were neutrals, furnish precedents to other neutrals when we become belligerents."

The work discusses with marked impartiality all of our maritime difficulties with England, and its author uses no rhetorical feint when he declares his intention to apply no rule to America which he would not apply to England. Such a book, coming from such a source, from one who clearly has for his objects nothing save the promulgation of truth, deserves our attention, and is calculated to do much toward abating excessive pretensions and restoring to harmony the opinions of the two countries.

CHAS. N. THOMAS,  
Student at Law.

The Copperhead papers very generally laud Mr. Cox, the late Secretary of the Interior, and commend his course in refusing to allow the clerks in his department to be taxed by the Republican National Committee for political purposes; and also because he kept Democrats in office; and they denounce the President for not approving Mr. Cox's policy and for not insisting that General Cox should remain in the Cabinet. Mr. Cox cannot fail to see that when the Democracy praise him, and denounce the President for not favoring the policy adopted by him as indicated above, that his course, to say the least, is of doubtful expediency. We believe it was wrong, and such is the verdict of the great mass of the Republican party.

Of the 141 towns in Massachusetts that voted in the September election, 20 declared in favor of the sale, and 121 against it.

## Letter from Baltimore.

We give place to the following letter because it contains some important facts and suggestions. It would have been more timely in our last week's issue, but we did not get it in season for that paper:

BALTIMORE, November 5, 1870.  
To the Editor of the New National Era:  
In the *Star* of the 4th ultimo, under the heading, "Let us have Peace," appears a lengthy article calling upon the order communicated by the War Department to the commander at Fort Mifflin to hold the troops in readiness to assist the United States Marshal in enforcing obedience to the laws at the coming election in this city.

A broad assertion is made, that for candor and truth the most rampant and unfettered rebel of the least sincere and moral pretensions would hesitate to endorse, who knows that the only restraint which is exerted over a large proportion of the citizens of Baltimore is that of fear, but who have every disposition to institute another St. Bartholomew, Port Pillo, or New York tragedy, so gentle and meek are these law-abiding citizens of Baltimore.

As a citizen by birth of this city, I cannot feel else than mortification and pain that the necessity should exist for such a course, but the desire to protect and shield a brother is neutralized by the fact that it would be fostering and encouraging his crime, ruffianism and disloyalty. The utmost that can be expected is, therefore, to regard the military movement with apathy.

The interference and introduction of the military imposes no additional indignity upon the city. That which should awaken the indignation of the editor is already in our midst, corrupting, festering, putrefying, and turning to gangrene the youthful minds of our rising generation by their being taught to hate the Government, and make of it a source of ridicule. The innocent man feels no alarm when in proximity to a policeman. It is the criminals who are apprehensive, who quake with fear and are restive until the policeman retires from their vicinity.

I might ask, is more honor to be paid the "Swamp-poodle" militia who parade our streets with "fuss and feathers" and all the glorious pomp and circumstance of war, and visiting militia companies, to be received with enthusiasm and open arms, while the United States troops, real live soldiers, many of whom are scarred over with the honorable memorials of their patriotic struggle, to be scouted and rebuffed to trespass upon the soil of Maryland—the former great, invincible, and patriotic Maryland of Revolutionary fame, than which no other star in the American galaxy emits a more constant light, and the best fitted as the depository of all that America holds dear—her soldiers, her relics and her treasure? But oh! fate! she lies prostrate, groaning under the weight of a hoard of repulsive rebels, who now desecrate her soil. How has the glory departed from Israel!

So proverbially known is the late persistent hostility and refractoriness of this city, that it has become a by-word through the Union, and is better known as "Mob Town." With all the parality of a native we cannot disguise the fact that it was these peaceable citizens that fired upon the United States troops from Massachusetts. Again, at the Presidential elections citizens of Philadelphia were assailed in their passage through this city from Washington. Again, at elections there have been enacted the scenes of the days of Robespierre, of France, and the *Sans Culottes* were well depicted in the Blood Ties, Plug Uglies, &c. Their traitorous penchant betrays itself everywhere, and everything offensive to the olfactory nerves, by reason of its diabolical taint, is pounced upon with culture-like avidity; witness the decoration of the rebel graves; the draping of the sacred flag of the Union in black for a defunct rebel and we must meet numbers of persons in the streets—enough to form an army—with black around the arm. What does it mean? Defiance of the Government is hurled from the platform, from press, even from the council chamber. Not later than last Monday night, at a Democratic torch-light procession, transparencies were exhibited, bearing the most barbarous and uncivilized caricatures and inscriptions hostile to the Government, and to a portion of their fellow-citizens whom the Government, by the majority of the voices of the nation, has clothed with the garb of citizenship in reward for their zeal, loyalty and patriotism. This procession carried out farther their peaceful inclinations by assaulting all the colored men they met within their route, who providentially were few. They closed in a general bombardment and demolition of the establishments of Messrs. Piper, Kelley, and other colored gentlemen, in Saratoga street, after which they began sacking in Zouave style.

The editor seems to think that the police are sufficient to restrain this lawlessness. So they would be were they so inclined, but their sympathy is with this class of citizens, and there should be no contestant candidates for Council or for Congress then, and perhaps it is to these elections that the editor alludes, certainly they would be tranquil enough; but give them a wide range in the streets. A notorious fact exists that whenever any assaults are made upon the colored citizens, when the Democrats are in numbers, there never are any arrests made, but at any colored gatherings the police stand off like a covey flock, and if he finds that the Democrat is getting worsted he is suddenly seized with the idea of discharging his duty, and no matter which are in fault the colored man is sure to be arrested as a set off to the disgrace of the Democrat. The Democrat gladly hails the advent of the police, for a sound thrashing is then exchanged for a reprimand, or slight fine, before the police magistrate.

I have endeavored to show that we cannot blame the President for issuing the above order; and it is only "naughty children who dread the whip."

I am, sir, yours very respectfully,  
STANBURY BOYCE.

SEND ON YOUR MONEY.—We receive a great many letters, saying that several subscribers have been obtained, and requesting us to forward the papers, and they will remit as soon as certain number of subscribers are procured. We keep no book of account with subscribers, and cannot send any paper until the money is received. Our friends should send the names with the money, just as fast as they are obtained, to prevent dissatisfaction on the part of the subscribers.

A large number of Sioux are reported to have attacked a party of whites from Fort Buford, acting as an escort to engineers of the Northern Pacific Railroad, on the 1st inst. The engineers have returned to Fort Stevenson, deeming it impracticable to proceed farther without stronger protection.

Though apparently in a state of rest, the atoms of matter in all gases are always vibrating. Like the motions of gnats in a sunbeam, the molecules of oxygen gas are moving at the rate of 1,500 feet a second; those of hydrogen gas at 6,000 feet a second.

Rene, a Danish astronomer, who flourished in 1676, was the first person who discovered the velocity of light, which he calculated to be the rate of 167,000 geographical miles per second.

## Speech of Frederick Douglass.

A great and brilliant Republican meeting was held in the City Hall, in Rochester, New York, on Friday evening last, and speeches were made by Hon. WILLIAM DORSEIMER, and FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

Mr. DOUGLASS, is now at his home in Rochester, with his two sons, who left Washington with him, and all three voted the Republican ticket on election day. The following is a report of Mr. DOUGLASS' speech as we find it in the Rochester Express.

Mr. DOUGLASS, as is well known, is the editor of this journal, and as we are permitted to use the scissors in his absence, we cut this address from the Express knowing that the readers of the Era will peruse it with unalloyed pleasure:

FELLOW CITIZENS OF ROCHESTER: I came here not to make a speech but to listen to a speech—an able, clear, forcible and eloquent vindication of the present administration of our Government. One such speech ought to be sufficient, and but that I believe that I am called to the greatest reluctance that I come forward to address an audience of my fellow citizens. In listening to other speeches I feel that they are more able and convincing than anything I can say. I have, however, in my mind, the conviction that I am a Republican. [Laughter.] And I suppose it is partly for this that I am called to address you. I am called here to give color to the occasion, and to prevent the whole thing from having the appearance of being "faded out." [Hei-hei laughter.]

I have traveled four hundred miles—not to make a speech, but to vote. I have brought with me two young men bearing my name, and even blacker than I am, and we intend to let the Republic know that we are not going to let the Republican ticket to succeed this fall. I wish it success for all the reasons mentioned here to-night. The policy and condition of the country for the next six years will be largely determined by the vote cast on the 12th of October, and of \$96,344,122 since March 1, 1870. The decrease since March 1, 1869, has been \$18,678,933; and the average rate of decrease is \$1,472,994 a month. The surplus of \$18,678,933, which was our net gain, is now a deficit of \$18,678,933. This shows a steady improvement in administration. The Republican party now controls the National Government, and is responsible for the most critical and important measures of the administration, there is certainly one respect in which it deserves unreserved praise. It has reformed the corrupt and dishonest Treasury, stopped costly abuses, and economized in the principal departments, so that it has actually saved more than one hundred and eighty millions of dollars to the people in the first twenty months of its work! The last twenty months of Andrew Johnson's Presidency, with a single additional month of General Grant, without a single additional day, have paid off \$183,075,905. Here is the claim of the Republican party to be more generous with the government of the country.—[Boston Commonwealth.]

The official statement of the public debt on the 1st of this month shows a decrease in the aggregate debt of \$5,129,227 for the month of October, and of \$96,344,122 since March 1, 1870. The decrease since March 1, 1869, has been \$18,678,933; and the average rate of decrease is \$1,472,994 a month. The surplus of \$18,678,933, which was our net gain, is now a deficit of \$18,678,933. This shows a steady improvement in administration. The Republican party now controls the National Government, and is responsible for the most critical and important measures of the administration, there is certainly one respect in which it deserves unreserved praise. It has reformed the corrupt and dishonest Treasury, stopped costly abuses, and economized in the principal departments, so that it has actually saved more than one hundred and eighty millions of dollars to the people in the first twenty months of its work! The last twenty months of Andrew Johnson's Presidency, with a single additional month of General Grant, without a single additional day, have paid off \$183,075,905. Here is the claim of the Republican party to be more generous with the government of the country.—[Boston Commonwealth.]

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## The Pro-Slavery Spirit in Maryland.

A venerable friend, whose name we withhold, to save him from annoyance, if not personal danger, in a late letter, has written for publication, referring to the continued existence of the pro-slavery spirit in Maryland, says:

"I live in an intensely Pro-Slavery District and know that the domestic spirit that stifled the religious fervor of the churches and drove the moral honesty of the people from the declaration of human rights out of the councils of the Nation, was not seriously injured by the bloody war of the rebellion. The poisonous reptile is lifting up his head rampant as ever in the religious councils of the churches, and is driving the moral honesty of the people from the declaration of human rights out of the councils of the Nation, was not seriously injured by the bloody war of the rebellion. The poisonous reptile is lifting up his head rampant as ever in the religious councils of the churches, and is driving the moral honesty of the people from the declaration of human rights out of the councils of the Nation, was not seriously injured by the bloody war of the rebellion. 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